

# The GARZETTE

September, 1999

Volume 10, Issue 7



## Special points of interest:

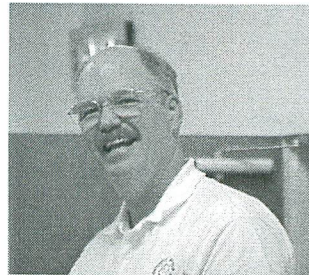
- Barry Zoll, N1TOQ finishes his series on generators on page 2.
- Ron Langston, WE50 is featured in this month's On The Air column
- Charles Parkhurst, KF4KDF kicks off a new series on what got you interested in ham radio.
- Lowry Rouse, KM4Z, ARRL Gwinnett County EC writes about ARES and Y2K involvement with county planning.

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## The President's Pen

By David Adcock, KA4KKF



David Adcock, KA4KKF  
Photo by Ike Chapman, KE4GYM

It's September already and Christmas is almost upon us. Have you made out your wish list? I would like to get one of those FT-100's and the antenna that goes with it. But I don't think that will happen, not unless I win the lottery. I try to make these articles as interesting as I can. I write about different modes of operation or some different radio or antenna and about club events. I think that the club events would be what most of the members would like to hear about. Everyone has a story to tell about how he or she got into amateur radio. I think Ike will give us a look into this from some of the **GARS** members in the newsletter.

This letter has to go to press before I get the status of the August dog show. We'll let you know who won that 2m mobile rig next month. If you want to try your hand at winning one of these gems, you can help with the September dog show. Ike and Marty will be glad to put your name down

on the list. I know you get tired of hearing about the dog shows, but let's face it folks. If we don't put on a Hamfest nor do some other function to raise money, the only thing to do would be to raise dues or beg for donations. Everyone that was at the June meeting should know where all the money goes. Shall I make a short list? Field Day, Picnic, Christmas Party, Repeater equipment for 3 repeaters and associated equipment, Scout programs, prizes for these events, phone bill, power bill. So the only resource we have at this time is the Dog Shows. Come on guys; help the club by giving a couple hours of your

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## Thanks To All For Their Help

By Ike Chapman, KE4GYM and Marty Fowler, KE4MLH

It's been said many times that this club doesn't run off of dues alone and one way we supplement that income is working three fund raisers each year with local kennel clubs. The most recent of these was held on

August 27th, 28th, and 29th at the Atlanta Exposition Center—South on Jonesboro Road.

We had 45 people, both club members and non-members, some were hams and some weren't, come out and

support the club with working one or more shifts for a total of 123 shifts during the weekend. Of those 45 people, six worked all six shifts and that number would have been seven but

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## The GARZETTE

The GARZETTE is the official monthly organ of the Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society serving its members and other persons interested in the advancement of the amateur radio art.

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### **Deadline for submissions is the 24th of each month for inclusion in the following month's issue.**

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# Generators From A To Z

By Barry Zoll, N1TOQ

## Maintenance

The final part in this series will address the maintenance responsibilities you'll have for your new generator. The investment you've made in this equipment will pay big dividends for a long time, providing that you follow the manufacturer's guidelines. It's a good idea to purchase the *factory* shop manual for your reference. If you don't feel comfortable performing the maintenance yourself, contact a reputable dealer and pay to have it done.

Before we begin our discussion, please take the time to make sure that your generator is equipped with an hour meter. If this device wasn't standard equipment, take a trip to the dealership or any power equipment store and buy one (they sell for no more than \$30.00). Then, create a logbook and make a checklist for items to be serviced. Your maintenance schedule should be broken down into two areas. They are the generator end, and the engine.

Most generator ends require little or no maintenance. They are made up of coils of wire, and usually have a sealed bearing that supports the rotor. Many generator ends contain "brushes". These small pieces of carbon-like material ride on the rotor's slip rings. During an annual service, regardless of the number of hours you've operated the generator, inspect the slip ring surfaces and using a pencil eraser, clean the carbon from the slip rings. Always make sure that the generator terminals are free of corrosion and are tight (don't over-tighten them). If the generator uses a battery for starting, make sure that the terminals are clean and that the cells are filled with the proper amount of distilled water.

The bulk of the maintenance

will be performed on the engine. Each owner's manual will specify the intervals. Here are the items you'll need to service:

**Engine Oil** – Check the oil level before each use and replenish as necessary. Don't skimp on cheap oil. Use the best! Change the oil filter with the same type equipped.

**Air Filter / Pre-Cleaner** -- Depending on the brand and model, some engines use both while others use only one.

**Fuel Filter** – The better quality units will use an in-line filter or sediment bowl. Remember, use clean fuel and add stabilizer if the fuel will be stored for longer than 30 days.

**Engine Valves** – They don't normally require frequent service but must be inspected and adjusted according to the manufacturer's recommendations.

### **Spark Plugs**

### **Spark Arrestor (if equipped)**

A visual inspection for oil leaks and loose fasteners should be done regularly

I hope that through this series of articles, you have become an educated consumer and feel comfortable with choosing the generator that best suits your needs. We've reviewed generator theory, sizing, safety, and maintenance. Remember not to buy with your pocketbook in mind, but with your needs first, and foremost. If you have any questions, I'm always on the air!



## Random Ramblings

"Suppose you were an idiot and suppose you were a member of Congress. But I repeat myself."

-- Mark Twain





# Thanks

(Continued from page 1)

David, KA4KKF had to leave Sunday after the first shift and drive to Raleigh, NC on business.

As event coordinators, Marty and I would like to thank each and every person that came out and helped. We could not have pulled it off with each and every one of you. But please don't let these numbers give you the impression that we were well staffed all weekend, quite the opposite is true. I've estimated several times that we need 25 to 30 people to run a shift efficiently and that proved out on Saturday when we had 31 people. We still could have used a few more that day but it was nice to have those we did and we were able to cover all the points and stations that were our responsibility. But, we were short of troops on both Friday and Sunday and had to scramble to get the job done.

Our next fund raiser is coming up later this month on September 23rd, 24th, 25th, and 26th at the same location. The 23rd will be a light day and we'll need only 4 to 6 people to staff that day. But the rest of the weekend will require a full complement of 25 to 30 people.

Marty and I will be recruiting help for this event by the time you read this article and we would like to ask for your help again. If you've missed the chance to support the club coffers this year, here's your chance and of course we welcome all of our "regulars" as they return to staff the event.

At the September and October club meeting, one of the folks that came out and helped will go home with a new 2m mobile rig. We'll have a few other prizes to give away in the drawing for those who worked one or more shifts.

So for now, let's recognize all those that came out in August: Aaron Morris, KG4ALB; Ade Wirth,

W4ADE; Anita Morris, KG4ATX; Anna Tyler, KG4ATH; Benjamin Vick; Beverly Bryant, KE4VDI; Bill Ahls, KE4EIH; Buddy Menshew, KF4YZS; Carol Gann; Carter Wood, KF4HLF; Charlie Parkhurst, KF4KDF; Clarence Upthegrove, AJ4S; Daniel Vick; David Adcock, KA4KKF; Don Vick, KE4YQV; Doug Kregel, KB6RRX; Earl Whatley, AF4FG; Eric Benner, KF4UNV; Gordon Anthony, KF4OKA; Greig Ripple, WA4AAP; Ike Chapman, KE4GYM; Jack Perry, KN6DO; James Vick; Jan Huckaby, KF4HRZ; Jeff Cutchins, KF4NBD; Jeff Herndon, KF4ZAX; Jeff Lewis, KF4VQA; Jim Bradrick, KF4YZL; Joe Biddle, AD4PZ; John Durkin, KF4SCB; John Kemker, W5NNH; Joseph Vick; Larry Busbee, W4JLB; Marty Fowler, KE4MLH; Mike Zalaocki, WA4MJZ; Paul Brisendine, K4HCM; Randy Drescher, K4HS; Rick Morris, KD4VOJ; Robert Toms, KG4CQF; Robert Tyler, KF4VBR; Robin Huckaby, WB4GKI; Royce Stovall, KD4EXY; Victor Gann, KF4DMW; Win Jackson, N1TWX. In addition to these we had a friend of Robert and Anna Tyler whose name is Ben but I didn't get his callsign or last name but that'll be corrected by the time the meeting comes around.

Again, a hearty thank you to all of the above from Marty and myself and we'll see you in September.



## Random Ramblings

"Diplomacy is the art of saying 'Nice doggie' until you can find a rock."

-- Will Rogers

"A gentleman is a man who can play the accordion but doesn't."

-- Unknown

"All the world's a stage and most of us are desperately unrehearsed."

-- Sean O'Casey



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# Meeting Minutes

By Mike Swiderski, K4HBI  
GARS Secretary

## Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society August 18, 1999 Meeting Minutes

David Adcock, KA4KKF, President, called the **GARS** meeting at Central Baptist Church to order at 1933 EDST. Club officers present: David Adcock, KA4KKF, President; Howie Gould, W4NVF, Activities; Jeff Cutchins, KF4NBD; and Mike Swiderski, K4HBI, Secretary. Introductions by the officers and attendees lead the way into the program.

Howie, W4NVF, introduced the guest speaker for the evening's program, Mike Branca, W3IRZ, past President of the Conyers Amateur Radio Group. Mike's program, entitled "Before There Was SWR", captivated the entire audience. The program awed the newer amateurs and brought fond memories back to the "more experienced" hams, especially those who survived home brewing and the occasional encounter with B+ and AC/DC designs. Mike licensed since 1956, covered amateur radio station test and measurement methods and materials available to less affluent ham of that era. The 1950 ARRL handbook and Mike's home-brewing expertise provided exposure to the club to such simple yet exotic devices as grid dip meters, wave meter coils, loops & bulbs, neon magic while he explained his home brew 807/6AG7 transmitter and power supply. His converted command set receiver was used to hear the results of his tuning up into the standard dummy load of the period, an incandescent light bulb (52W?). The transmitter output after running through an "RF Ammeter" was applied to his home brew "L" type antenna tuner, where neon bulbs and loops attached to standard bulbs were used to detect RF. The entire station was constructed with mostly WW2 surplus components. Mike, it was our pleasure

and delight to have you and your presentation at the **GARS** meeting, Thank You.

After a 10 minute break the meeting reconvened with Ike, KE4GYM, making a plea for volunteers to work the August dog show. Sign-up sheets were passed around. There will be two shifts a day, 5:30 to 10 am and 10 am to 2 pm. A 2M 50W mobile radio will be given away via a drawing to participants in the event. Tickets for the drawing are earned at the rate of one ticket per shift worked, work three shifts, get three tickets, etc. There will be about 25 volunteers needed for most days. Directions will be shown on the club web site. Support this fund raising event as well as the Sept 23-26<sup>th</sup> dog show.

Ike also offered CD's loaded with the complete set of the digital Field Day 1999 pictures as shown on the club web site. The club is selling these for \$5 per CD. There also was talk of including a Club roster on the CD.

Marty, KE4MLH, will the Master Chef of the GARS October 2<sup>nd</sup> Club Picnic and "Pig Roast" at Fort Yargo State Park. All are welcome to attend and Marty has requested people to come the day before, camp with Marty and the crew, help with the cooking and story telling, and even do some waterside operating. On site camping is available as long as you reserve your space through the Georgia State Parks Reservation Line.

Next up was Don, AJ1T, Co-Chairman, and Ade, W4ADE, Chairman presenting appreciation certificates for the Field Day 1999 work crews. Also for the Y2K Field Day, Mark, KD3GC, has volunteered to co-chair the event with Don and be the Chairman for 2001 Field Day.

Earl, AF4FG, announced the 10/8-10 Sandy Creek Park Scout

Event in Athens, GA hosting ~4000 registered over night scouts and maybe as many day visitors. An amateur radio station will be on site using the call K2BSA, so operators are needed to control the proposed 40/20/17/15/10 meter stations. The primary operating day is that Saturday and Earl has commitments for 3 of the 5 needed rigs. Contact Earl to assist in operations or providing a rig. Additional information and maps will be provided at the next **GARS** meeting.

Another Amateur Radio and Scouting Event, Jamboree On The Air (JOTA), will be held on October 16 at the Methodist Campgrounds in Lawrenceville. Additional information will be provided at the next **GARS** meeting.

David, KA4KKF reminded all about the weekly Saturday morning breakfast starting at 8 AM at the Golden Corral on Riverside Drive in Lawrenceville.

Susan AF4FO reported the Tuesday night 8pm local 2M FM net control operators are "OK" and a new schedule has recently been generated.

Gene, KF4NOG, stated that he and Tom, K4TJD, are the only CW Practice, 9 pm Tues, net control stations and need assistance. The code is generated by software that will be given to all net control stations that volunteer, knowing the code is not a requirement to perform this function. Call Gene at 770-925-0186.

David noted the Alford club hamfest is coming soon and **GARS** is expecting to have two tables. Geoffroey-Allen, KE4IGD, membership chairman, accepted the coordinator position for the club PR table located inside the building. There were no takers for the "bone yard" table coordinator and this position needs filling. The club will pay for

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# Meeting Minutes

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the table and while someone "works" the table they may also vend their own stuff at the club table. Lets have the "bone yard" table coordinator position filled quickly, see any club officer.

An attempt will be made to restart "Rookie Radio" and a coordinator for this activity is requested, please contact David, KA4KKF.

Marty, KE4MLH, has a title, "Antenna & Tower Manager". He accepted this position and will accept the responsibility for transporting and coordinating the tower setup, as well as teaching others how to do this setup and transportation SAFELY.

Win, N1TWX, discussed the upcoming Central Gwinnett High School **GARS** sponsored no code Technician classes that are to kick off Tuesday, Sept. 14<sup>th</sup>, 7 PM. The HS Course Catalog showed a cost increase, with the class being listed as \$25. Contact Win Jackson or Bill Sloan (after 3 pm) for registration and information.

Howie, W4NVF, will start up a 0 to 5 WPM CW class at St John Neuman Church. Class times are 2 to 4 PM starting Sept 11 through Dec 4<sup>th</sup> for 12 Saturdays excluding Nov 27, which is the Thanksgiving holiday. The space is limited to 65 persons and the cost is zero. Contact Howie.

Ike, KE4GYM, the newsletter editor requested articles about "What Got You Started in Ham Radio". Send Ike a bit of history for The Garzette. Ike also reminded all about the email communication route is via the GARS "ONELIST". Mailings of The Garzette will be improved once the membership database is made current.

The July meeting minutes were accepted as published in The GARZETTE.

KF4NBD, Jeff Cutchins, Treas-

urer, presented the financial status a current balance of \$2100. The report was accepted.

David, KA4KKF, informed all of a committee being chaired by Lowry, KM4Z, and including Carlton, WA4ZUW, and soon to be others to review a proposal to change the by-laws.

Lowry, KM4Z, Gwinnett EC, had ARES applications and was taking orders for ARES vests. He explained his recent communications with County Emergency Force personnel, leading to the points that the amateur community will be part of these forces and will probably become heavily involved with the upcoming Y2K preparations. The Skywarn Net will experience format changes. Tentative date for the Red Cross Drill is Sept.18 and the SET may be the first weekend in Oct.

Win, N1TWX, advised folks to review the FCC web site for Y2K information.

David, KA4KKF, made a plea to the membership for any type activity, program, etc. requests be forwarded to the club officers. This is your club, what would you like to see done?

David introduced the Secretary, Mike, K4HBI, who on behalf of the Membership Chairman, submitted the following applicants for **GARS** membership: Edward Juzumas, WA2BIG; Floyd Brown, Awaiting Call Sign; William Moore, KC5AVG; Robert Toms, KG4CQF; John Farr, KD6CLO; Chuck Tankersley, KC4CC. These good folks were voted and accepted into the GARS "family" by all.

The prize drawing was enjoyed by most, especially the winners: KF4OKA, WU4H, KG4DMX, and KF4NBD (HRO Gift Certificate)

Susan, AF4FO, said there are still some "I Survived Field Day" tee shirts left for sale (\$9), any one wanting one or other **GARS** apparel please contact Susan. Think Christmas and Holiday Gifts!!!

Barry, N1TOQ, Tech Fest Chairman, is looking to take the

Fest up to the next level and requested help in the form of a committee for this growth. Volunteers from the floor were Johnny, W4WKP, Howie, W4NVF, and Ade, W4ADE.

David and Marty also reminded folks about the 6M repeater net on Wednesdays at 2100 local on the 53.11-1 GARS 6 M FM repeater. The net is doing well and could use a few more checkins. If there is a desire to help as net control, please contact either the 6M Net Manager - KE4MLH, Marty Fowler or the GARS Net Manager - AF4FO, Susan Swiderski.

David called the meeting to a close at 2136 EDST.

73, Notes as heard and scribed, any misspelling and erroneous information is the computer's fault. Respectively submitted Mike Swiderski, K4HBI



## Random Ramblings

"Advertising may be described as the science of arresting the human intelligence long enough to get money from it."

— Unknown

"Tact is the ability to describe others as they see themselves."

— Abraham Lincoln

"It is of interest to note that while some dolphins are reported to have learned English -- up to fifty words used in correct context -- no human being has been reported to have learned dolphinese."

— Carl Sagan

"The brain is a wonderful organ. It starts working the moment you get up in the morning and does not stop until you get into the office."

— Robert Frost





# On The Air With Ron Langston, WE5O

By Karl Phillips, K4GZZ

This month's ON THE AIR features Ron Langston, WE5O. Ron and I played a bit of "phone tag" for a while before we finally hooked up. Ron was born in Dallas, Texas but moved to nearby Fort Worth at a very young age. Ron's father's job required the family to re-locate many times so Ron went to a new grammar school every year. Ron's moves throughout his life have taken him to California, Indiana, Connecticut, Louisiana, Missouri, Nevada and to Georgia. Ron and his family did take time out from moving to allow him to graduate from high school in New Orleans.

After high school graduation, Ron attended George Washington University until the Army came calling. Ron decided to join the Army and worked for the Army Security Agency. I've never heard of this happening before, but Ron actually took his Army physical at the Pentagon! He was then assigned duty at Fort Myers. While still in the service, Ron was transferred to St. Louis, where he got married and sold shoes. Later, Ron went to work for the University of Texas Medical Branch as Benefits Manager.

Ron's interest in radio came as a boy living in Fort Worth, Texas. Fort Worth had a minor league baseball team called the Fort Worth Cats. When the Cats played in town all of the games were broadcast live on radio. When they played away the games were "re-created" over radio by announcers using pre-recorded crowd noise and teletype machines chattering away in the background. Ron loved to listen to the Cats but listening late at night during bedtime posed a problem. So Ron built a small crystal radio with a small earphone and would listen to the games at night in bed under the covers unbeknownst to his parents.



Ron Langston, WE5O at **GARS** Field Day 1999.

Photo by Ike Chapman, KE4GYM

After moving to New Orleans, Ron met a ham that lived in the same apartment complex and that ham gave Ron an ohmmeter and a J38 key. Ron still uses that J38 key from time to time to this very day. These were the early beginnings of Ron's interest in amateur radio. In 1978, while in the military, Ron took his novice test and became WD0FPT. Ron build a 25 watt homebrew rig mounted to a ping pong table and used a long wire as an antenna. It took Ron a while to get up the courage to send out a CQ but finally Ron made contact with a ham in Phoenix, Arizona. Ron got too excited and accidentally bumped his rig, sending it spinning way off frequency and wasn't able to go back and find the station he had just made contact with. After several more month's of just listening, Ron got back on the air and successfully made many other contacts.

One day he received a phone call from someone asking him if he was the ham operator with the call sign WD0FPT. Ron was thinking, "Oh no, it's the FCC". It turned out to be another ham and the soon to

be Ron's Elmer, W0VM - Bill Stocking. Bill told Ron he had heard him on the air and suggested Ron "take the rig off the air!". Evidently, Ron's rig didn't sound all that great and Bill said it sounded like a spark gap transmitter. Bill paid Ron a visit and it was the beginning to a long friendship between the two hams. Bill was a retired school teacher and wrote many articles for CQ Magazine. Bill and Ron worked together on various projects, including rig and antenna construction. Ron says that Bill turned out to be the best Elmer any ham could have had. Bill taught Ron everything about radio and construction of rigs, gadgets and antennas.

Ron bought a Heathkit HW-8 and began meeting Bill on the air for a regular schedule in 1982. Soon the meeting on the air grew and grew until sometimes they would have 10-15 hams ragchewing on CW every Tuesday night. Bill named the "net" the RRT Net, standing for Ron's Round Table. When Bill passed away, as a tribute to his Elmer, Ron re-named the net the BRT Net standing for Bill's Round Table. The BRT Net has survived all of these years and still meets every Tuesday night on 7.045 CW on 40 meters at 9:00 P. M. local time. Ron would like to encourage all **GARS** members to check in with them on some nights. As you can now assume, Ron is an avid CW operator by choice. In 1985, Ron upgraded to Extra and changed his call to WE5O.

Ron has a Kenwood TS-440S, a Drake TR4, a Ten-Tec Argonaut 509, a Ten-Tec Century 21 and a portable 20 meter rig. Under some antenna constrictions, Ron runs a Butternut vertical antenna. He also has an Astro 200, which is a 200 watt rig he will soon be going mobile with.

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## On The Air With WE50

(Continued from page 6)

Ron is employed at L3 Communication, located off 400. He is the Compensation and Benefits HR Manager. They manufacture display units for pilots and do a lot of equipment needs for the Stealth aircraft. Most of the Gulf War shots of cruise missiles hitting their targets that you saw on TV were manufactured by Ron's company.

Fishing and hot air ballooning are two of Ron's other interests.

Ron joined **GARS** in 1995... loves the club and is especially impressed with the many talented people in the club that make things happen. Ron hopes to retire soon, find a big piece of land with no antenna restrictions, build a home and put up a big tower and beam.

In interviewing Ron I found a fellow ham with an enormous knowledge of ham radio and certainly I believe Ron is real "Elmer material". As a matter of fact, Ron thinks being an Elmer to a new ham is one of the most important aspects of the hobby. Ron regrets his job keeps him so busy and desires to become more active with the club. I am sure retirement will clear the way for that, Ron! I know it will for me. It was an absolute pleasure to talk with Ron in depth on the subject of amateur radio. He certainly has a lot to offer **GARS** in the way of amateur radio expertise. You can all congratulate Ron as being my 40<sup>th</sup> "On the Air" victim !!! More to come next month. Until then 73 and good DX.

Karl - K4GZZ

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### Random Ramblings

"Any society that needs disclaimers has too many lawyers."

- Erik Pepke

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## My Start In Amateur Radio

By Charles Parkhurst, KF4KDF

The beginning of my interest in am radio, sort of began in the 1950's, when I was a child growing up in a small farm village with a population of 350 in east central Illinois. My dad gave me a small A.M. table radio. At night when I went to bed, I would tune around to find the most distant stations. Also on Saturday nights, I would listen to WLS in Chicago to the National Barn Dance. Inevitably, I would wake the next morning to find the radio still playing, which did not set too well with my parents.

As the years went on I was able to buy at a very reasonable price a console radio with, I think, at least 3 short-wave bands. It even had a built in loop antenna in the back, that was moved by a knob on the front of the radio. Man, I could get stations of all kinds with that set. I would mostly listen to the 75-meter ham bands and would tune around on it for many enjoyable hours. Just off the end of the AM broadcast band I could pick up, at times, I think it was the City Police in Cleveland Ohio.

As time moved on, and my hobbies sort of changed directions, I then became interested in the Illinois Central Railroad, in which the main line ran very close to where I lived at that time. I mean within 25 yards of the house. I was sure that I wanted to be a locomotive engineer more than anything in the world.

I did not mean to get off the subject that I am suppose to be writing about. When I finally grew up and moved to another city where I was employed, I then became interested in scanners, and having listened to the local storm spotter groups, I decided that I would like to join them. That organization was called ESDA (Emergency Services and Disaster Agency) and was a volunteer group representing Champaign County Illinois.

We did communications for the County, and during all the University of Illinois home football games, we had a small construction type trailer, with radios and other communications devices to use for crowd control and security needs. A few of the members were hams, and I thought that I could be more useful if I were a ham also.

It was not to be yet, I changed job locations and everything changed in my life. Then I was relocated here in Georgia in 1990. In 1992 I moved to Lawrenceville. Again the scanner came through again, I was picking up the local hams around here and my old thought of becoming a ham was piqued again.

I heard about **GARS** sometime in 1997 and started studying to get my license. Finally, with the help of the illustrious, now living in Charlotte, Larry ( WT4XX ), who taught the no code tech class, I finally took and passed the exam.

Well the rest is history and I am doing what I really enjoy, especially with Skywarn, since weather has also been my "thing" for years.

I plan to upgrade in the near future in order to get out further!

Well, I hope all this makes sense, I will be the first to admit that I was not cut out to be an orator or writer.

Best Regards,

Charles Parkhurst, KF4KDF

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### Random Ramblings

"The man who doesn't read good books has no advantage over the man who can't read them."

-- Mark Twain

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# Gwinnett ARES And Y2K

By Lowry Rouse, KM4Z

ARRL Gwinnett County Emergency Coordinator

What do these two things have in common you ask? Together it spells "BIG OPPORTUNITY" to the ARES members here in Gwinnett to be part of the county Emergency Management Agency volunteer program. As most of you know, for the 2 ½ years I've been EC for Gwinnett County, I've wanted to be more involved with the emergency agencies. We (the Amateur Radio community) have a great service we can provide these groups and it wasn't being utilized.

In years past, it was just assumed that hams would help out in times of emergency and was that way for many years. During the last decade or so as Civil Defense was replaced by Emergency Management Offices, hams have become less important and almost forgotten by larger cities emergency services. So now, all of a sudden with all this Y2K preparation and planning being implemented, the question arose, "What if the telephone, cell phone and 800 MHz trunking system shuts down completely, how will we handle it?" The spotlight turned onto the "ham" community fortunately. This is actually what happened in the July Emergency Management meeting of Gwinnett's EMA department. Since then I have met with Frank Daniell (county EMA coordinator) and Angie Conally (911 supervisor). Jeff Harrison and I also attended the August Emergency Management meeting on the 26<sup>th</sup>. We are now considered part of the Gwinnett County emergency volunteer services.

What all this means is that we now have several agencies to provide communications for besides the American Red Cross. This in no way means that we are reducing our involvement with the Red Cross. It does mean though that we'll need more ARES people available to help all these services in the

event a disaster happens. What they want now is for us to be worked into their Y2K preparedness plan. For example, they are going to designate certain public facilities as "contact points" for the general public to use to get emergency services rendered. This would happen if all phones and cell phones were completely out. ARES would have a communicator there to relay to County EOC (Emergency Operation Center) any requests for police, fire or medical services required by the public. Also there might be a need for an ARES communicator to ride in the service vehicles too for relaying information back to EOC. These locations will be fire departments, police stations, libraries, hospitals, schools, etc. As you can see, if a countywide communication outage occurs, we need from 75 to a 125 operators (possibly more, TBD) to cover all services and provide shift relief operators too. This would be an extreme case but it could happen.

The current plan calls for a "dry run" drill on September 30<sup>th</sup>. We will only observe the operation from the county EOC, which is presently located in the J & A Building in Lawrenceville. Then sometime in late November, we will participate fully with the county EMA by actually providing communicators and placing them in the field and interacting with the county emergency personnel to see how it works out. So, please try to make yourselves available for this drill in November. More information will be given ASAP on dates and times.

By the time you read this, we'll probably already have participated in the fall Red Cross drill planned for September 18<sup>th</sup>. I'll give highlights on that next month. Another activity coming in October is the yearly Simulated Emergency Test (SET). This year Tom Rogers

(KR4OL) state SEC will be having a state wide drill to try and get more activity generated for this years event. It will probably be the first weekend in October as that is the customary weekend to have this test. Unfortunately it will fall on the same day as the **GARS** pig roast, October 2<sup>nd</sup>. Never fear though, our Metro DEC, Steve Strong (KS4EL) will allow our September 18<sup>th</sup> drill to count for our SET participation. Now I plan to be involved in the statewide drill anyway but won't expect anyone else to join in unless you just want to be a part of it. Right now, Tom hasn't given any info out on what type drill it will be or how each county will be involved. Also when we participate with Gwinnett County's drill in November, it will count as another SET for us.

Before I forget, another important item that came to the front with our new involvement is a permanent radio station at the EOC. For now we will set-up temporarily in the EOC at the J & A Building. When the new county EOC is constructed, ARES will be able to establish a permanent HF/VHF/UHF/Packet station complete with antennas and a county data terminal which all of the emergency services will have. This equipment of course will have to come from the amateur community (except for the data terminal). So lets begin looking at what equipment is needed and plan for how we are going to obtain it.

OK, enough for this month. Please participate in the nets and check the Gwinnett ARES webpage at <http://www.geocities.com/CapeCanaveral/Hangar/3516> for updates on what's happening with the group.

Best Regards  
Lowry Rouse KM4Z





# The President's Pen

(Continued from page 1)

time. To those hardy souls that due volunteer, my thanks for a job well done. You have help make **GARS** a great club.

**GARS** is getting bigger all the time and I feel that it should expand its executive committee to give members more representation. I want to add an executive vice president and the membership manager to the committee. With this change some of the duties would be shifted around from other members. Everyone will get a chance to read the finished product when it is published in The GARZETTE. Of course, that depends on whether or not the special committee brings a recommendation back to the executive committee. If they provide a workable version that should be published, then you can read all about it in The GARZETTE. If you disagree with the changes as published in the newsletter, then come to the meeting and vote the way you want it to go (yea or nay). The process is described in the bylaws on how to present any changes.

I hope that I can lead this club into the next century by giving it purpose and direction. The purpose is to have fun with amateur radio and help others with public service. The direction should be onward and upward. Training and practice by doing contest or special events or learning how to make a wire antenna from scratch

Learning the procedures from more experienced hams or sitting around making that QRP rig to learn how a radio works on the inside. Sure you follow the cookbook to put these kits together, but you also get a story from your Elmer or from the book. We should be striving to have fun and learn something new about amateur radio at every function we do. When hams get to-

gether, there is always a story on some rig or outing being told.

I know everyone cannot do everything or every event in the club, but the more people that participate in events the more fun we'll have. The club is only as good as its members. The membership makes the club a living, breathing, fun place to hang out. Does this sound familiar? It sounds like a family. Take a look around. There are ups and downs in all families, but they all seem to get through the hard times. Remember when you disagreed with your brother or sister on who was going to drive the car. Thirty years later you both laugh at that incident. **GARS** is a big family and it goes through the same growing pains. I hope that we grow up faster than 30 years from now. Let's see I'll be 78 years old then.

Well, I have rambled on long enough about this topic so let's move on. I've had someone come forward to be the property control manager. We will start getting all the **GARS** material in one location and inventoried. The tower manager is Marty (KE4MLH). He will make sure the group that takes the tower is trained in the pulling and raising and lowering the tower, so no one will get hurt. He will have a procedure and policy book to teach every group that works at this. This is to provide the club with more people to know how to do this function when Marty is not available. Rookie Radio is about to get started again. Victor Gann has offered to involve any **GARS** member in with the Venture group of scouts when they are working on radio related project. Stand by club members, this could be a win-win situation here. Everyone gets to work on radio projects and the scouts get to work along side an adult. Boy, I don't think Victor could have asked for a better combination to help the venture group and **GARS** at the same time. Way to go Victor.

Speaking of the scouts. What are your plans for the second weekend in October (10/9/99)? You

know the weekend after the **GARS** picnic? **GARS** is putting on a demo at Sandy Creek camp grounds in Athens that weekend. See Earl, AF4FG to volunteer to help.

What do you think about a clubhouse? Think about a place for storage of equipment, training rooms, a meeting room, and an operating station that people can use for contest. A place to hang **GARS** pictures and awards. What do you think it would take to find something like this? Let's see. A room, 30 by 50 feet with some smaller 10 by 20 rooms for classes and storage. Plenty of parking spaces for all the cars and the tower and equipment trailer. Maybe even put up some antennas. The security, you say? We have to have a club house committee to keep it clean and open it up for special functions. This means more people to volunteer to help make this the best club in the Atlanta area.

Let's face it folks, **a club is only as good as it members who work to make it great.**

So in closing this month, I want to say thank you to all those people from the past 20 years of **GARS** work, a big **THANK YOU**.

73,  
David  
KA4KKF



## Random Ramblings

"Programming today is a race between software engineers striving to build bigger and better idiot-proof programs, and the Universe trying to produce bigger and better idiots. So far, the Universe is winning."

-- Rich Cook

"Just because something doesn't do what you planned it to do doesn't mean it's useless."

-- Thomas Alva Edison





## **Metro Atlanta Club Meetings**

### **First Tuesday**

#### **Metro Atlanta Telephone Pioneers**

Old Hickory House  
5490 Chamblee/Dunwoody Rd, Dunwoody  
Dutch dinner is at 6:30 PM, followed by meeting.  
Talk In 145.410(-)

#### **Kennehoochee ARC**

First United Methodist Church in Marietta  
Meeting begins at 7:30 PM  
Talk In 146.880(-)

### **First Thursday**

#### **Atlanta Radio Club**

American Red Cross Building, Lindberg Plaza  
Meeting is at 7:30 PM  
Talk In -146.820(-)

#### **N.E. Georgia ARC**

Jefferson Civic Center  
Off of Memorial Dr. toward Winder from Jefferson  
Meeting is at 6:30 PM  
Talk In - 147.225(+)

### **Second Wednesday**

#### **North Fulton Amateur Radio League**

Ryan's Steak House  
Alpharetta Highway (Hwy 9), Alpharetta  
Dinner at 6:30 PM, meeting at 7:30 PM  
Talk In - 145.47(-)

### **Second Thursday**

#### **Alford Memorial Radio Club**

Killian Hall, Killian Hill Road  
Lilburn  
Dinner at 6:00 PM, meeting at 7:30 PM  
Talk In - 146.760(-)

### **Second Saturday**

#### **East Atlanta LAN**

St. Patrick's Episcopal Church  
Dunwoody  
Meeting is at 10:00 AM  
Talk In - 145.410(-) and 443.025(+)

### **Third THURSDAY**



**Gwinnett**

**Amateur Ra-**

**dio Society**

Central Baptist Church  
Gwinnett Drive  
Lawrenceville

Meeting begins at 7:30 PM in the fellowship hall.  
Talk In -147.075(+) and 444.525(+)



## **Metro Atlanta VE Exam Schedule**

GARS publishes Metro Atlanta area VE exam schedules as a service and is not responsible for errors or changes. Call and confirm schedules before going. All sessions are walk-in. Take copies of current license and certificate of completed elements with you to all sessions.

### **First Sunday**

WCARS VEC  
2:00 PM  
(Except July and September)  
Johnson High School  
3305 Poplar Springs RD, Gainesville  
Terry Jones, W4TL (770)967-6364

### **First Saturday**

9:00AM  
Clayton County Emergency  
Management Building  
7496 N. McDonough St., Jonesboro  
George White, KN4NG (770)361-6850

### **Second Tuesday**

7:00PM  
Walton EMC  
3645 Lenora Church Rd, Snellville  
Wayne Taylor, WD4CCA  
(770)498-7759

### **Second Saturday**

CA VEC  
8:30 AM  
Stone Mountain Methodist Church  
5312 West Mountain St.  
Stone Mountain  
Hal Martin, KI4RD  
(770)978-9160

### **Third Saturday**

CA VEC  
9:00AM  
Marietta First United Methodist Church  
Room 305, 56 Whitlock Ave  
Marietta  
Larry Huff, WA4CQZ  
(770)955-3171

### **Fourth Tuesday**

ARRL VEC  
7:00 PM  
United Way Service Center  
6279 Fairburn Road, Douglasville  
Jessie Clower, KB4WFK  
(770)942-6466.

### **Fourth Friday**

W5YI VEC  
7:00 PM  
St. John Neumann Church  
801 Tom Smith Road  
Lilburn  
Headphones Provided!  
Howie Gould, W4NVF  
(770)921-8362



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*Giving Amateur Radio Spirit!*

*Visit us on the Web!*

[www.gars.org](http://www.gars.org)

## From The Editors Desk

*By Ike Chapman, KE4GYM*

This month's issue features yet another new series of articles thanks to a suggestion by Paul Brisendine, K4HCM at the August Executive Committee meeting. During a discussion of club events and activities, Paul remarked that he'd like to know what got people interested in getting their ham license and a small light bulb appeared over my head. This sounded like a great idea for a series of articles for the newsletter and I've solicited entries via the Onelist mail server. I've several responses and the first of those articles, this one by Charles, KF4KDF appears this month.

I'd like to invite you to participate by sending in your story, it can be as long or as short as you'd feel like making it. I'll find a space for it in a future issue.

Let me express my thanks to Barry, N1TOQ who this month finishes his series on generators with an article on maintenance. It was a very informative series and I do appreciate Barry's effort and hope you'll pass along your thanks as well.

While I'm at it, let me recognize the **GARS** newsletter team. Each month my name goes on the issue as the editor but there is a team that works behind the scenes to get the finished product to your mailbox each month. After I finish the newsletter each month, I send a copy of the print file via FTP to Joe, AD4PZ who sends it to the print shop at Lanier Worldwide where our printing is done. Then, Karl, K4GZZ works with the print shop to schedule the completion date and

arranges for the copies to be picked up for mailing. Then the final part of the production team comes into play, Larry, W4LJT and/or Jack, WU4H take the copies and fold, label and stamp them for mailing. They then sort the newsletters by zip code for mailing per the bulk mail instructions from the Post Office. The final step is for them to deliver them to the Lilburn Post Office during certain business during the week so they can be processed using our bulk mail permit.

So as you can see it's far from a one man job and I'd like to thank those on the team for the hard work and support each and every month.

That's all until next month, keep those articles coming!

